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P A T E N T

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Alan Shluzas et al. Confirmation No.: 3377  
Serial No.: 10/658,736 Examiner: Nicholas W. Woodall  
Filing Date: September 9, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3775  
Docket No.: 1291.1138101 Customer No.: 33469  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUSES FOR TREATING THE SPINE THROUGH  
AN ACCESS DEVICE

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted  
to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

  
Rachel GagliardiApril 3, 2009  
Date

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed January 5, 2009, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on April 5, 2009.

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please consider the following amendments and/or remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.